

(Derby, 7 Miles below Philadelphia 25. Aug. 1777)

My dear Mary

I have not the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt
of your letters by the post — There is not the best
management with the letters belonging to the army
— The General in consequence of information that the
enemies Fleet are in Chesapeake Bay changed the
route of the army which was to the Jerseys to avoid
information of Mr Howe, towards Maryland — I
believe until the enemy land in Force we shall
not go much further than Wilmington which
is 44 miles below this place — A great quantity
of Flour is in the port Mr Mifflin Millstone is our
supply — a neck of land of 12 miles in extent from
Christen River to the head of it is said to be
his object, which if he succeeds he cuts off 2 Counties
from Delaware 5 from Maryland and 2 from
Virginia — I cannot believe that General Howe
with his reduced force will canton his army
in 12 miles, and that in a country where the
air is pregnant with insects and death — An months
residence in that Country would reduce his army
much more than a well contested action. I
again believe that he intends to land his troops
here and march to Philadelphia. I believe
neither of these will be his intention — he will

either intends for Philadelphia or the N. River - I am
rather inclined to the think the former - were ~~there~~ if
Burgoyne's success ~~was~~ certain, Howe ought to operate on
the N. River, but that is by no means the case -
^{the probability} Philadelphia with its consequent addition of men to General
Howe is an object of great splendour, more so than
the N. River, because here what I can find out even
if Burgoyne should get to all any, & then from
a junction there the greatest part of the whole would
be referred to Burgoyne, which would give infinite
power to Mr H who has been no equal in the
line of Howe.

Our army made a very respectable show
Yesterday in moving in one Column thro' Philadelphia
- The numbers, were so far beyond the conception of the
Tories that they were given dumb founded - I was
not present at that time Genl. Greene I regret
having made an excursion to the theatre & had not
then returned -

The jump of the militia under Mr H
and the affairs at Fort Mifflin ~~give~~
contrast the conduct at Fort Mifflin in a striking
manner.

EM 1125(1) I have even been of the opinion
that nothing but a general exertion of the people
was wanting to render them the happiness
~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~world~~ in the world - The conduct of the
militia seem to confirm this. You have undoubt

The particulars. I wish our amiable friend General
Lincoln had been there — as the officers who
were obnoxious to the people of New England are now
removed, no excuse can be given if they do not
send large reinforcements of militia to the North-
ward. The cry has been great as it multiplied
has left New York to be a prey to her enemies
— indeed I was shocked at the supineness of the people
where danger was so near — and in my opinion
this date to any one man cannot justify it —
it argues a want of patriotism and every thing
else which ought to be the cement of the
union. I know fibbling politicians will find
some excuse — and urge them with vehemence
but this will be of no avail at the bar of imperi-
tality. — The union of the confederation of
the Colonies is of such infinite importance that
my heart turns with horror from the men or
men who would in any way impair it — it
is so essential to our existence that in my thoughts
I damn him who has any base attachments
whatever — they perhaps is carrying the matter
too far — but to those is not too severe to the
wretch who wantonly indulges himself with unlimited
comers of any state — O Canada! O Canada!
Affectionately yours
Wm

Colonel Harry Jackson
Boston

AUGUST 25

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PAID

Aug 25. 1877

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MS. A. 11. C. 3. 10

Letter from my
son & wife